

Town of Dorchester

Appointment Policy

General:

This policy is intended to apply to all committees, boards, commissions and other like bodies appointed under the authority of the Dorchester Board of Selectmen. The term “committee”, when used in this policy, is intended to mean all committees, boards, commissions and other like bodies.

While all committees appointed by the Board of Selectmen are an essential part of our town government, the powers and duties of some are governed by state statute. These include, but are not limited to, the Board of Adjustment, the Conservation Commission, and the Dorchester Historic Commission. To some extent, these committees perform a regulatory function. Once appointed by the Board, these committees operate with a high degree of autonomy. Nevertheless, it is in the overall best interest of the Town that each committee functions in a manner that is consistent with the general policies coordinated and implemented by the Board of Selectmen. Effective local government requires that all committees respect the duties of other Town Committees, and coordinate their activities to the greatest extent possible.

Other committees appointed by the Board of Selectmen serve as advisors to the Selectmen in the performance of their duties to the public. These committees shall have such powers and duties as may be delegated to them by the Board of Selectmen. Such committees may represent the town in dealing with other local, regional or state agencies to the extent requested by the Board of Selectmen. In doing so, they shall take positions on various issues consistent with the views of the Board of Selectmen, and they shall keep the Board fully informed concerning all such activities.

Eligibility:

All residents of the Town of Dorchester are eligible for appointment by the Board to a committee. There may be occasional exceptions when an individual's unique skill, talents or experience support the appointment of a non-resident. Such an appointment may be made when, in the judgment of the Board, it would be beneficial to the committee's work, and to the overall betterment of the Town. Non-residents shall not, however, be eligible for appointment to any committee responsible for exercising statutory or regulatory authority.

Role of Committee in Appointments:

- Encourage interested individuals to apply to the Board of Selectmen for possible appointment.
- Make known to the Selectmen any special talents or experience the committee might need at any particular point in time.
- Make suggestions to the Board of Selectmen regarding potential candidates.

Consideration of Applicants:

This policy is in place to assist the Board of Selectmen in making informed choices for committees. This policy does not replace the prerogative of the Board of Selectmen to choose citizens they feel are most qualified for appointment. The Board of Selectmen will agree upon what public information concerning these appointments may be disclosed.

All individuals applying for the position(s) shall be put in nomination. Appointments shall be made by a role call. The individuals who receive a majority vote from the Board of Selectmen shall be appointed to the appropriate Committee.

Amendment Procedure:

This policy may, from time to time, be amended by a majority vote of the Board of Selectmen at a regularly scheduled Selectmen's Meeting.

Effective Date:

This policy shall take effect immediately following a majority vote of the Board of Selectmen at a regularly scheduled Selectmen's Meeting.

October 14, 2010